



# STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD  
GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS  
LT. GOVERNOR

BOARD OF PHARMACY  
LLOYD K. JESSEN, RPh, JD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 23, 2013

Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Members of the 85th General Assembly  
Iowa State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Honorable Governor and Members:

Re: Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program

Pursuant to the requirements of section 124.554, subsection 2, of the Iowa Uniform Controlled Substances Act, the Board of Pharmacy (Board) submits the following information.

The Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) provides authorized prescribers and pharmacists with information regarding their patients' use of controlled substances and is used as a tool in determining appropriate prescribing and treatment of patients without fear of contributing to a patient's abuse of or dependence on addictive drugs or diversion of those drugs to illicit use. Iowa pharmacies are required to report to the Iowa PMP all Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances dispensed by the pharmacy to ambulatory patients.

The Iowa PMP became fully operational on March 25, 2009. The cost of initial implementation of the Iowa PMP was paid by federal grant and amounted to \$411,250. Costs since implementation, amounting to \$97,608 annually, provide for the receipt and delivery of pharmacy data and database software maintenance. Annual costs are paid from license fees retained by the Board for the support of Board programs and activities. No additional fees or surcharges have been imposed to pay for activities or support of the Iowa PMP.

The Iowa PMP is administered by the Board with the assistance and guidance of an advisory council consisting of governor-appointed pharmacists and prescribers. The advisory council meets as needed to review the progress of the Iowa PMP, the cost of maintaining the Iowa PMP and the benefits of the program, possible enhancements to the program, and information, comments, and suggestions received from program users and members of the public.

The Board and the PMP Advisory Council also review statistics regarding the use of the Iowa PMP by prescribers, pharmacists, and law enforcement or regulatory agents; the number of prescriptions filled each year; the top drugs dispensed in Iowa each year; and indices of

excessive pharmacy-shopping or doctor-shopping for controlled substances. Included with this report are some of the data compiled since the establishment of the Iowa PMP.

The data indicate steady increases in the number of pharmacists and prescribers registering to use the Iowa PMP and in the number of requests for patient prescription history being submitted and used by those authorized users. The data also demonstrate that the prescribing and dispensing of these controlled substances has not been unnecessarily or adversely affected by the implementation of the Iowa PMP. The number of prescriptions dispensed and the number of doses dispensed increased modestly during the first three years of the program and the current year's data indicates a slight decrease in those numbers.

A number of regulatory and law enforcement agents have also registered to use the Iowa PMP. A member of this user community may receive Iowa PMP data only for an existing investigation or case where there has been a determination of probable cause for the information and the request for prescription information is accompanied by an order, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion. Less than one percent of all processed requests are attributable to law enforcement or regulatory agents but those agents who have used information available from the Iowa PMP report improved efficiency and reduced investigative hours due to the central availability of the prescription information compiled in the Iowa PMP database.

A graphic comparing the top dispensed controlled substances for calendar year 2012 is included. The substances ranking in the top doses dispensed have been fairly consistent since implementation of the Iowa PMP, especially within the top six substances.

Comments received from prescribers and pharmacists using the program indicate that the Iowa PMP is a valuable assistive tool in determining appropriate health care treatment for their patients. A frequent suggestion from users is to provide a means of checking other states' PMP records at the time a query is submitted to the Iowa PMP. Practitioners along Iowa's borders are especially supportive of such a program enhancement. The Board has pre-filed a bill for consideration during the 2013 legislative session that would authorize the Board to enter into data-sharing compacts with other states' PMPs subject to the security provisions of Iowa law.

The Board and the PMP Advisory Council concur, and health professional boards, associations, and societies agree, that the Iowa PMP provides proportionally more value for the health care community and their patients than the program costs and that the Iowa PMP should continue.

Respectfully submitted,



Lloyd K. Jessen, R.Ph., J.D.  
Executive Secretary/Director

LKJ:tmw

Attachments

# IOWA PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM REPORT 2012

## DATA COMPILATION

**MARCH 26, 2009, TO DECEMBER 31, 2012**

<b>Period:</b>	<b>3/26/2009 - 12/31/2009</b>	<b>1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010</b>	<b>1/1/2011 - 12/31/2011</b>	<b>1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012</b>	
Total CSA Registrant/Prescribers	13,074	13,472	14,008	14,547	
Total Iowa Pharmacies	939	943	948	942	
Total Iowa-resident Pharmacists	3,269	3,314	3,372	3,410	
Prescribers Registered	1,436	2,254	2,956	3,766	26%
Pharmacists Registered	758	1,020	1,208	1,698	50%
Regulators Registered	15	26	28	32	
Law Enforcement Agents Registered	29	65	92	119	
Practitioner Agents Registered	-	-	-	124	
Prescriber Requests Processed	16,806	44,442	71,172	89,151	87%
Pharmacist Requests Processed	5,703	7,988	8,173	12,243	12%
LE/Regulator Requests Processed	251	340	423	644	<1%
<b>Total # Requests Processed</b>	<b>22,760</b>	<b>52,770</b>	<b>79,768</b>	<b>102,038</b>	
	<b>1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009</b>	<b>1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010</b>	<b>1/1/2011 - 12/31/2011</b>	<b>1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012</b>	
<b>Filled prescriptions for period:</b>					
# Individual patients filling CII Prescriptions	198,795	297,424	322,950	258,046	
...from 5 or more prescribers or pharmacies	501	217	249	500	
...from 10 or more prescribers or pharmacies	22	4	7	15	
...from 15 or more prescribers or pharmacies	4	-	-	1	
# Individual patients filling CII or CIII Prescriptions	611,040	825,693	870,441	706,805	
...from 5 or more prescribers or pharmacies	2,270	1,360	1,313	2,107	
...from 10 or more prescribers or pharmacies	171	68	60	84	
...from 15 or more prescribers or pharmacies	40	11	8	12	
# Individual patients filling CII, CIII, CIV Prescriptions	822,577	1,170,815	1,149,197	922,867	
...from 5 or more prescribers or pharmacies	3,293	2,016	1,769	2,957	
...from 10 or more prescribers or pharmacies	232	96	72	117	
...from 15 or more prescribers or pharmacies	57	16	9	14	
<b>Total # Prescriptions dispensed for period:</b>	<b>4,239,890</b>	<b>4,442,017</b>	<b>4,581,643</b>	<b>4,566,569</b>	
<b>Total # Doses dispensed for period:</b>	<b>228,149,732</b>	<b>242,691,025</b>	<b>253,631,899</b>	<b>252,137,229</b>	



Controlled Substances Prescription Trend (by Doses ) -

1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

